

**BERNARD P. CARVALHO JR.**  
Mayor



**WALLACE G. REZENTES JR.**  
Managing Director

COUNTY OF KAUAI

**KAUAI POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**News Release**

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DARRYL PERRY, CHIEF  
Tel (808) 241-1600  
Fax (808) 241-1604

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**KPD warns public of new scam targeting kupuna**

LĪHU'E – The Kaua'i Police Department is urging residents to be aware of a new scam on the island that is targeting kupuna, ages 60 and older.

Police believe scammers are possibly targeting kupuna who are eligible for the Fall Prevention and Wellness Program offered by the Agency on Elderly Affairs (AEA) and in partnership with the Kaua'i Fire Department, American Medical Response and the Hawai'i State Department of Health.

According to police there have been recent reports of a subject posing as a fire prevention representative, and asking residents to enter their home to check on items such as smoke detectors. However, this is not the proper protocol for the Kaua'i Fire Prevention Bureau.

"The Kaua'i Fire Department will not make prior phone contact or show up unannounced to someone's home," stated Fire Chief Robert Westerman. Fire officials are urging the public to be watchful and report anything suspicious to police.

"Do not let anyone into your home that you don't know or don't have a scheduled appointment with," stated Kaua'i Police Chief Darryl Perry. "If you see anything suspicious, try to remember as many details as possible because any information could be helpful in a follow-up investigation."

Police also recommend taking notice of key details such as the type of car a suspect is driving, their license plate number, and the suspect(s) appearance.

The Fall Prevention and Wellness Program is a service for kupuna ages 60 and older to ensure safe living conditions by offering scheduled home inspections, installation of fall and fire prevention equipment, and medication reviews. AEA officials offer these reminders to help kupuna identify the proper protocol for this program:

- Home inspections are always pre-scheduled through the AEA office.
- Officials will always arrive in a County of Kaua'i vehicle and be in uniform.
- Officials will have proper identification and be accompanied by a member of the AEA.
- Officials will never ask you for personal information over the phone.

If you suspect a scam, please call the Kaua'i Police Department at 241-1711.

For more information about AEA's Fall Prevention Program, please call 241-4470.

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